

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /117 W
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R 280249Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 143

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAPAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SAPAIN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONGEN BELIZE

AMCONGEN DURBAN

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AMCONGEN RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 1178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 017047

1. REFTEL, WHICH EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT BRAZIL'S INTENTION TO SHIFT ITS SUGAR EXPORTS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, REQUESTS EMBASSIES IN OTHER SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. ESSENCE OF REPRESENTATION IS TO REMIND THESE GOVERNMENTS THAT, SHOULD THE U.S. EVER REVERT TO A POLICY OF SUGAR IMPORT QUOTAS, DETERMINATION OF QUOTAS WOULD "ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BASED ON PERFORMANCE IN SUPPLYING U.S. MARKET WHEN IT IS WIDE OPEN."

2. THIS INSTRUCTION REFLECTS AN AMBIGUITY IN U.S. SUGAR POLICY WHICH POSES A SERIOUS DILEMMA FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES IN SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES. WE ARE, ON THE ONE HAND SOLEMNLY ASSURED BY WASHINGTON THAT OUR POLICY IS IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO THE OPEN MARKET. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE ASKED TO RAISE THE SPECTER THAT WE WILL PROBABLY CLOSE THAT MARKET IN THE FUTURE BY RE-INSTITUTION OF IMPORT QUOTAS.

3. IN THE INSTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE COLLAPSE OF THE U.S. SUGAR QUOTA SYSTEM, ALL EXPORT SUGAR SALES WERE PLACED UNDER CONTROL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB) ACTING AS THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES. THIS MEANS THAT SUGAR CAN BE DIRECTED WHEREVER THE GOVERNMENT WISHES IT TO GO, SO LONG AS CURRENT SELLER'S MARKET PERSISTS. DECISION ON DIRECTION OF SALES WILL BE GOVERNED IN LARGER MEASURE BY MARKET PRICES, BUT GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT INSENSITIVE TO SUCH LONGER RANGE CONSIDERATIONS AS ARE RAISED IN REFTEL.

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3. IN FACT, GOP OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY ASSURED US THAT THEY WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXCELLENT RECORD OF PERFORMANCE IN THE U.S. MARKET. ONLY LAST WEEK, DURING MANILA VISIT OF ASST SEC AGRICULTURE YEUTTER, PNB OFFICIALS PLAINATIVELY ASKED HOW THEY COULD OBTAIN OFFERS OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN SUGAR IMPORTERS. MARKET HERE IS RIFE WITH RUMORS THAT FIVE-YEAR CONTRACTS

ARE BEING NEGOTIATED BY U.S. IMPORTERS WITH AUSTRALIA,
TAIWAN, ETC. HOWEVER, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO RPT NO
OVERTURES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE PHILIPPINES.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, RATHER THAN APPROACH PHILIPPINE
AUTHORITIES WITH LIGHTLY DISGUISED THREAT WHICH REVEALS
AMBIGUITY OF OUR OWN POLICY, WE WOULD FIND IT MUCH MORE
COMPELLING AND HELPFUL IF WE COULD BE ASKED TO INFORM GOP
THAT U.S. SUGAR TRADE IS EAGER TO NEGOTIATE LONG-TERM
CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF PHILIPPINE SUGAR. IT WOULD BE
ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF WE COULD INDICATE THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE IS ENCOURAGING U.S. BUYERS TO MAKE SUCH
OFFERS, OR EVEN WILLING TO TAKE SOME INITIATIVE TO SEND,
OR PERHAPS LEADN OUR INDUSTRY NEGOTIATING TEAM TO MANILA
FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT WE WOULD
FIND THE GOP FAR MORE POSITIVELY RESPONSIVE TO THIS SORT
OF APPROACH THAN TO THE MENACE IMPLICIT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S
INSTRUCTION.
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